

RECEIVED

MAY 06 2003

02-277

From: Robert Hunter
To: Commissioner Adelstein
Date: Sun, Apr 27, 2003 12:13 PM
Subject: Local radio, local news

EX-114-114

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Dear Commissioner Adelstein

In re: Proceeding 02-277

Ouch! Constriction hurts. For over forty years working in print and broadcast media, I have watched with awe, shock, and downright disgruntlement as my sources of information (yes, and jobs) have withered away to the secular apologetics of the network news and the quasi-religious "happy talk" of Oprah and Dr. Phil.

I heartily agree with the words of Mike Michaud, my representative in a reply letter to my query about the Local Radio Ownership rules changes pending. "I share your concern that media conglomeration could restrict public discourse to fewer and fewer voices," said Rep Michaud.

The no-holds-barred cutthroat capitalism of free-market media competition gave me some of the highest and lowest points of my career: from the Milwaukee Journal to the Woonsocket (Rhode Island) Call and from Westinghouse Broadcasting to one of the last stand-alone independents here in the Maine woods. It was a glorious scrabble. Please keep it free.

Best,

Rob Hunter, late of WINS, WNEW, WBAI-Pacifica, WBT Charlotte, WJAR Channel 10 Providence, WIVY, WSAR-Fall River, WWON-Woonsocket and WQDY in Calais, Maine.

02-277

From: Dorothy Tod
To: Kathleen Abernathy
Date: Sun, Apr 27, 2003 4:19 AM
Subject: Re: Changes to Media Regulations

Dear Katheleen Q. Abernathy

I believe that it's very important to maintain as much diversity in ownership of media outlets in all markets as possible. Please don't relax the ownership requirements; we need a free press in this country and with single ownership comes a single view point.

Please consider that I am one of many people who feel this way and it's up to the FCC to hear these voices and not bow to pressure from the media industry.

Significant public discussions need to be held before making any dramatic changes to the regulations.

Thank you.

Sincerely,
Dorothy Tod, 41Hazel Brown Road, Warren, VT 05674

From: john ciraldo
To: Mike Powell, Kathleen Abernathy, Michael Copps, KM KJMWEB, Commissioner Adelstein
Date: Sun, Apr 27, 2003 4:20 AM
Subject: deregulation

I would like to take the opportunity to voice my opinion over the continued deregulation of the airwaves. It is my understanding that the airwaves are the property of the public rather than corporations. However, when you allow massive corporations to take over our local air, and with it our local voice, you condemn rather than serve the public. To take away any form of diversity or the opportunity for an independent set of thoughts both sickens and terrifies me. I feel that it goes without explanation that allowing corporations such as Clear Channel to override our local airwaves can only stifle smaller companies who cannot compete, thereby taking the airwaves away from the public, away from Americans, and giving them to detached often very distant interests who have no intention to offer the public any benefit or service. Please use the power that you have been given to actually serve the interest of all Americans and allowing us to continue to own what is ours, the airwaves. Thank-you for your time.

-John Ciraldo
1237 Weathervane Ln. Apt. 1A
Akron, Ohio
44313

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The New Yahoo! Search - Faster. Easier. Bingo.

CC: jdc@nacs.net, Dave Colgrove, dekkard@replicants.org

From: Helene Knox
To: Mike Powell, Kathleen Abernathy, Michael Copps, KM KJMWEB, Commissioner Adelstein
Date: Sun, Apr 27, 2003 5:37 AM
Subject: Stop total privatization of the media

Dear FCC Commisioners:

I am writing to urge you to defend the remaining rules that prevent a handful of private corporations from taking overwhelming control of all US media, to make a stranglehold even worse than what they have already.

Europeans are shocked that US news reports are so much like each other, so different from serious investigative reporting, and so close to US government press releases that they drumbeat the American population into fearful ignorance of what is really going on in the world. We are living in a dangerous bubble of dysfunctional disinformation.

Defend freedom of the press, by encouraging many different voices and points of view. That means many different OWNERS, not just hundreds of channels. Freedom of the press belongs to the people who OWN the press/network/station.

To have only three, four or five megacorporations own all information sources in thousands of American towns and cities would be the triumph of the privatization that is globalizing the United States of America into a third world country.

Please resist the demands for this outrageous takeover of freedom of the "press." Is this still the land of the free -- or what?

Helene Knox, Ph.D.
Oakland, CA

From: T
To: Prichard
Date: Sun, Apr 27, 2003 11:05 AM
Subject: Re: Media Consolidation consequences

One hardly needs media consolidation to end up with really awful media. Coverage of the war in Iraq has more than proved that. However, consolidation has some potentially scary effects that makes matters worse than they are already. Chris Weare, Jordan Raphael and I wrote a paper for the Harvard Journal of Press-Politics that shows the chilling effects on editorial diversity when print media also hold broadcast licenses (subject to government approval). This points up the larger problem of indirect influence on programming through the license approval/renewal process. Clear Channel's pro-war rallies may be nothing more than a way to curry favor with the current administration in order to get what they are asking for from the FCC. (Although Powell seems pretty eager to give the industry what it wants anyway.)

The other thing that is worrisome is the impact consolidation has on the diversity of ownership. For those who are interested, you can check out the latest issue of Black Enterprise (<http://www.blackenterprise.com/>) for a thoughtful and balanced article on the subject. For those of you really, really interested in this topic, I would direct you to The Aspen Institute's series on Diversity in the Media (part of the Communications and Society program that covers other issues of interest in the debate over media consolidation):

<http://www.aspeninstitute.org/Programt3.asp?bid=545>

The links provided here will take you to program reports that cover some of the difficulties faced by diverse media voices. The issue of consolidation comes up again as having a narrowing effect on diversity.

The bottom line is this: we should think hard about the effects of policy changes will have and whether we want those effects or not. The last time we had a big-time rulemaking on ownership caps we gave the industry what they wanted (a genuine pattern at the FCC and its forerunner, the Federal Radio Commission) and a lot of folks woke up after a few years and said: "What happened?" Whether you think consolidation is a good thing or not, we should at least have a clear idea of what we're doing and whether it is a good thing or not. Last time we didn't have serious public debate or policy analysis and we got blindsided by Clear Channel. (What is it with those super-aggressive Texans?) Let's work to slow this thing down while we can.

Or as my dad used to tell me over and over (I was a slow learner on this one): Look before you leap.

T

Titus Levi 1-213-740-8154 phone
Annenberg School of Communication 1-213-740-3913 fax
University of Southern California tlevi@almaak.usc.edu
Los Angeles, CA 90089-0281 office: asc 321B
USA

The genius is the one who plays most like himself.

From: Annie Phillips
To: Webmaster
Date: Sun, Apr 27, 2003 11:11 AM
Subject: Comments on Media Ownership

Hello, Webmaster! Your site is terrific, except something very important is not functioning now. It worked fine for me yesterday morning, when I submitted my comment on the rule revision for media ownership...which is a really vital issue to our country right now.

After that, though, a friend contacted me saying she couldn't figure out how to send her comment. I tried to duplicate what had easily worked for me a couple of hours earlier, but got the "Sorry, Page Not Found" message. Could it be you're getting flooded with comments and missing them all? This would be an ironic shame.

Please look into it and fix it ASAP, so the democratic process can function properly. Thank you.
Anne W. Phillips
4010 89th Ave SE
Mercer Island, WA
98040

CC: Mercer Island PeaceMakers, Mike Powell, Kathleen Abernathy, Michael Copps, KM KJMWEB, Commissioner Adelstein, sally beane

From: Barbkmler@aol.com
To: Mike Powell
Date: Sun, Apr 27, 2003 11:54 AM
Subject: KEEP OUR FREEDOM OF SPEECH WITH c-span

How dare you interfering with U.S. citizens' right to SPEAK AND BE INFORMED!!!!
Your consideration of narrowing c-span's viewership IN ANY WAY is unconstitutional, anti-American and anti-patriotic!!
GET OUT OF MY RIGHT TO HEAR THE TRUTH AS WELL AS MY FELLOW AMERICANS!!!

Barbara K. Miller
Pompano Beach FL

From: Robert Hunter
To: Kathleen Abernathy
Date: Sun, Apr 27, 2003 12:11 PM
Subject: Local radio, local news

Dear Commissioner Abernathy

In re: Proceeding 02-277

Ouch! Constriction hurts. For over forty years working in print and broadcast media, I have watched with awe, shock, and downright disgruntlement as my sources of information (yes, and jobs) have withered away to the secular apologetics of the network news and the quasi-religious "happy talk" of Oprah and Dr. Phil.

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Best,

Rob Hunter, late of WINS, WNEW, WBAI-Pacifica, WBT Charlotte, WJAR Channel 10 Providence, WIVY, WSAR-Fall River, WWON-Woonsocket and WQDY in Calais, Maine.

From: Thomas Rohrer
To: Kathleen Abernathy
Date: Sun, Apr 27, 2003 1:29 PM
Subject: Preserve Diversity and Media Ownership Limits - DO NOT Remove Remaining Regulatory Limits on Corpor

Thomas Rohrer
570 Sycamore Circle
Danville, CA 94526

April 27, 2003

FCC Commissioner Kathleen Abernathy
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th St., SW
Washington, DC 20554

Dear FCC Commissioner Abernathy:

This action is outrageous. It reeks with the smell of money. It is
ANT-AMERICAN!

The FCC must NOT further weaken the rules that help preserve competition
and diversity among the owners of American media.

I am writing to you today to comment on Docket No. 02-277, The Biennial
Review of the FCC's broadcast media ownership rules. In its goals to
promote competition, diversity and localism in today's media market, I
strongly believe that the FCC should retain all of the current media
ownership rules now in question. These rules serve the public interest by
limiting the market power of already huge companies in the broadcast
industry.

The FCC is currently considering sweeping changes to broadcast ownership
rules. Repeal of or further modification to these rules will likely open
the door to more mergers that will continue to reduce competition and
diversity in the media. If the rules are weakened further, one company in
a city could control the most popular newspaper, TV station and possibly
the cable system, giving it dominant influence over the content and slant
of news and information. Such a move would reduce the diversity of
cultural and political discussion in this country. Media ownership would
be concentrated by corporate monopolies even further, and the public's
ability to have open, informed discussion with diverse viewpoints would be
compromised.

I do not believe that the studies commissioned by the FCC accurately
demonstrate the negative affects media deregulation and consolidation have
had on media diversity. While there may be indeed be more sources of
media than ever before, the spectrum of views presented have become more
limited.

The right to carry on informed debate and discussion of current events is
part of the founding philosophy of our nation. Our forefathers believed
that democracy was best served by a diverse marketplace of ideas. If the

FCC allows our media outlets to merge, our ability to have open, informed discussion with a wide variety of viewpoints will be compromised.

The public interest will best be served by preserving media ownership rules in question in this proceeding.

I think it is important for the FCC to not only consider the points of view of those with a financial interest in this issue, but also those with a social or civic interest.

With the serious impact these rule changes will have on our democracy, it is incumbent on the Commission to take the time to review these issues more thoroughly and allow the American people to have a meaningful say in the process.

Sincerely,

Thomas W. Rohrer, Ph.D.

From: doris copperman
To: Mike Powell, Kathleen Abernathy, Michael Copps, KM KJMWEB, Commissioner Adelstein
Date: Sun, Apr 27, 2003 1:32 PM
Subject: FCC purpose and responsibility

To Federal Communications Commissioners:

The mission of the FCC is to guarantee freedom of information and citizen access to objective news. This needs to be true for people of all ages, all locations, and all points of view. It is not the FCC's job description to determine what news should be made available to the rest of us, nor should that decision be made by corporations that control large parts of the communication network and have their own goals in what should reach the populace.

Freedom of the Press is the backbone of democracy, but it doesn't mean that the Press can be allowed to select the news in every aspect of reaching those who are dependent on the Press for accuracy in reporting. We should not be allowed to be manipulated.

Thank you for your attention.

Doris and Ralph Copperman

From: L A Moyer
To: Kathleen Abernathy, Michael Copps, KM KJMWEB, Commissioner Adelstein, Mike Powell
Date: Sun, Apr 27, 2003 5:08 PM
Subject: STOP THE DE-REGULATION OF FCC LICENSING

April 27, 2003

Federal Communications Commission

Attention:
Chairman Michael K. Powell: mpowell@fcc.gov
Commissioner Kathleen Q. Abernathy: kabernat@fcc.gov
Commissioner Michael J. Copps: mcopps@fcc.gov
Commissioner Kevin J. Martin: kjmweb@fcc.gov
Commissioner Jonathan S. Adelstein: jadelste@fcc.gov

CC: FCC COMPLAINTS fccinfo@fcc.gov
Elections and Political Candidate Mattters: campaignlaw@fcc.gov

RE: DE-REGULATION OF FCC LICENSES TO BENEFIT CORPORATE TAKE-OVER OF THE MEDIA.

Chairman and Commissioners,

I object to the wholesale giveaway of FCC licenses to corporate mega media control and the fundamental abridging of our First Amendment Constitutional Right to a free press.

By allowing only a few corporations to buy, merge and hold licenses, you will be destroying anything that is now left of the airways that allow independent journalism and competition... and will, in effect, censor our basic right to legitimate news sources and the dissemination of a variety of points of view.

This is a shameless adjunct to the Patriot Act, CAPSS II and the intimidation of the public who would rise up against this administration AND a blatant attempt to keep any semblance of truth from an unsuspecting public. This last piece of the puzzle is just too much.

It is apparent that the Republican Right is RUNNING THE TABLES while it can, rolling back civil and workers rights, women's rights, environmental protections, education and destroying this government financially...and anything else it can do, including the unilateral military domination of the world and its oil, beginning with the Middle East and intimidating European nations, to benefit insider corporations. It's criminal and immoral!

This administration is WRAPPING ITSELF IN THE FLAG AND BURNING OUR CONSTITUTION.

IT/YOU AND THE FCC SHOULD BE DEEPLY ASHAMED.

I appeal to your senses of morality and ethics, and your responsibility to the American people, to stop this insanity. Stop this corporate give-away!

Sincerely,

Lucille Moyer
San Jose, CA

CC: Campaignlaw, FCC FCCINFO

From: Fred Wolters
To: Kathleen Abernathy
Date: Sun, Apr 27, 2003 5:11 PM
Subject: More regulation, less concentration of media ownership, please

Dear Commissioner Abernathy:

I would like to voice my disagreement with the FCC's proposal to change the present rules limiting how many radio and television stations and newspapers a single company can own.

I've read arguments saying that new media such as the internet and satellite radio open enough opportunity for diversity of opinion that radio ownership regulations are no longer needed, but I disagree. Radio, TV and newspapers are the main windows to the world for many people, who neither use the internet for purposes of public affairs information nor listen to satellite radio.

The airwaves are a public resource. Those who are given the use of them should have to serve the community by presenting diverse opinion, news sources, entertainment, etc. The concentration of the media into fewer hands does a disservice to the community and should be regulated.

Furthermore, I would like to mention that I find it passing strange that the FCC has no information about this pending policy change on their website nor do they seem to be inviting public comment. It almost seems that they are trying to avoid informing the public and asking for public input. I think it is time for Congress to take an interest in these matters and pass legislation that will encourage diversity in radio and television.

Thanks,

Fred Wolters

For alternative news, check out <http://www.commondreams.org>

From: Suzanne DeBrosse
To: Kathleen Abernathy, KM KJMWEB, Commissioner Adelstein, Mike Powell, Michael Copps
Date: Sun, Apr 27, 2003 5:11 PM
Subject: Upcoming FCC Vote

Dear Chairman Powell & Commissioners :

Regarding the upcoming FCC vote, further consolidation of the media in the false name of "deregulation" must be halted and in fact reversed. TV and

radio news in the hands of a handful of profit-driven corporations has undermined our democracy more than any other modern force except the high cost of broadcast commercials during elections. The media companies have

failed in their public trust to provide crucial unbiased information to the public about most public issues, most notably the drive to war in Iraq. As an American concerned about our democracy, I call on you to break up the

media conglomerates, to open the spectrum to a wide diversity of organizations and independent journalists, and to reinstate the Fairness

Doctrine.

Thank you,

Suzanne DeBrosse

Suzanne DeBrosse, Media Literacy Educator
212 Buckingham Drive, Colchester VT 05446
802-860-4779

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it's the only thing that ever does." - Margaret Mead

From: Dave Kroske
To: Mike Powell, Kathleen Abernathy, KM KJMWEB, Michael Copps, Commissioner Adelstein
Date: Sun, Apr 27, 2003 6:58 PM
Subject: June 2nd ruling

Commissioners:

I want to register my VERY Strong opposition to allowing more consolidation of ownership of FCC licenses. I feel it is extremely important to have ownership of media be varied! Pretty soon there will be only a few owners and there view of what is 'news worthy' is all we will hear! The fact that this vote is happening virtually unpublicized, shows that the the business interest of the media is all that counts. The licenses belong to the people. If you vote for increased consolidation, you will be blatantly ignoring your charter as stewards supporting the public interest.

DON'T SEEL OUT TO BIG BUSINESS, BIG MONEY!!!!!!!!!!!!

Sincerely,
Dave Kroske
San Jose, Ca

From: Micki98226@aol.com
To: Mike Powell
Date: Sun, Apr 27, 2003 11:59 PM
Subject: Lifting cross ownership ban

The FCC must preserve existing cross ownership rules to help ensure that local newspapers and broadcasters remain separate watchdogs over one another.

Given the trends toward corporate ownership concentration, what media diversity and competitiveness remains is critically necessary to serve the public interest.

There has not been adequate and open debate on this very important issue before the FCC -- do not lift the ban on the cross ownership rules. The cross ownership rules have worked well for a quarter of a century -- it's not broke, so don't try to fix it! Especially when most Americans are in the dark on this issue.

Michaelyn Jackson
Bellingham WA 98226